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Operation Pacific Greetings 2004

AFRC Band performs with Hootie and the Blowfish and the New England Patriot Cheerleaders

By Senior Airman Dandrick Glenn

Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

Members of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve and the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia joined platinum selling artists Hootie and the Blowfish and the New England Patriot Cheerleaders for Operation Pacific Greetings (OPG). OPG toured five PACAF bases in Japan, Korea, and Hawaii from May 14-21, 2004 thanking troops for their dedication and service. Sharing the stage with headliners Hootie and the Blowfish, the band set the tone for tremendous performances throughout the Pacific. "We had a top-notch group of musicians assembled from both bands, and they put on an incredible show," said Dave Ballengee, tour producer. "We had something for everyone. The shows were very entertaining and well received," he said.



Hootie and the Blowfish headlined Operation Pacific Greetings featuring members of the AFRC Band.
(Photo by Ken Hackman)

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The AFRC band also provided expert production and technical support. "OPG proved to be a technical challenge to integrate the complete audio set-up of Hootie and the Blowfish into our equipment footprint," said Technical Sergeant Craig Stevens, Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of Productions. "Our tech crew had one afternoon and evening once all the gear arrived to find all the problems and solutions before the gear had to be packed onto pallets. After the initial setup for the show, the tech crew for Hootie and the Blowfish and ours worked very hard making sure everything was in order to put on a successful tour," said Sergeant Stevens.

A Message from the Commander

From the Commander— July 2004



Captain Chad A. Steffey, Commander and Conductor, Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

On June 21st I stood on stage at the Robins Air Force Base Museum of Aviation, facing the Band of the Air Force Reserve and the nose of a B-29. As I took our guidon in my hands, I was flush with emotion, nostalgia and excitement for the future, honored to carry on the traditions of our Air Force. This particular event, the Change of Command ceremony, incorporated so many of the elements that identify our band and strategic mission: heritage, pageantry, history, symbolism, heraldry, patriotism, tradition, inspiration, Esprit de corps, the partnership of community, and the joy of friends and family. We were honored to have many families there, as well as members of the local community and Robins Air Force Base. How fitting this seemed, as I have now joined the Air Force Reserve Command to lead their ambassadors, the Band of the Air Force Reserve, in taking the message of Citizen Airmen around the world and reaching out to the families and communities of Air Force Reservists with the universal language of music.

In the few weeks since then we've hit the ground running, celebrating our nation's birthday with a gala concert in Warner Robins, Georgia, complete with fireworks and guest artist "Stillwater," a classic rock band of regional fame, featuring our very own Technical Sergeant Rob Walker. Again the partnership of the local community, thousands of families and our professional airmen could not have been more exemplary. This was my first performance with the Band of the Air Force Reserve as the Commander, and I was deeply honored to share the stage with them. Whether entertaining our troops overseas, our families at home, or supporting the President of the United States like they did so magnificently at the G-8 Summit, the men and women of the Band of the Air Force Reserve are the

best at what they do...I'm thrilled to be part of this proud organization and look forward to a prosperous future.

While becoming a new commander is a big change for me and the band, we are also facing some other changes in senior leadership. After 26 years of distinguished service, our Band Manager, Chief Master Sergeant Roger Ferrell, will retire on July 29th and pursue a career in instrument repair. Chief Ferrell is a fabulous clarinetist, bagpiper, and caring leader. We will miss his fine musicianship and wisdom, and wish him much success in the future. However, joining our staff is First Lieutenant Allison Farabaugh, a career Public Affairs Officer, who came to us from the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. Lieutenant Farabaugh is a talented young officer who will oversee our administrative staff and bring valuable expertise to our "Band Strike Package" missions that support Air Force Reserve installations across the United States... welcome LT!

Finally, I want to thank my predecessor, Major Alan Clark, for his dedicated leadership of the band. He built an organization with vision, purpose, and passion for artistic greatness. We wish him, Colleen, Joseph, and Jeffery all the best in their new assignment with the ROTC program at Louisiana State University.

Ceremonial Band Provides Musical Support for G-8 Summit and President Bush's Visit to Central Command

By Senior Airman Dandrick Glenn
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve recently had two very high level Ceremonial Band performances. On June 8, 2004 they performed arrival ceremonies at Hunter Army Air Field for the 2004 G-8 Summit of the Industrialized Nations, which was held at Sea Island, Georgia. "Our band was the only military unit outside the Military District of Washington selected to perform at this top-level diplomatic event," said Master Sergeant Barbara Miller, the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the Ceremonial Band. This 48 member band performed eight arrival ceremonies for the heads of state of Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Russia, France, Italy, Germany, and Ireland (representing the European Union). Lieutenant Colonel Mark Peterson, Chief of Air Force Bands Division in the Pentagon conducted the band.

A few days later on June 16th, the Ceremonial Band performed for the arrival of President George W. Bush at MacDill AFB, Florida. Nearly 1000 troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq heard the President's address via satellite, in addition to several thousand troops on hand at MacDill. "A few days before the event, the band received a call from MacDill stating the President was coming and they needed musical support," said Technical Sergeant Ken Trimmins, Director of Operations for the band. "It's a great part of our mission to support the President when called upon."

A team effort from Central Command, protocol, the White House Staff, and the aircrew from McGuire AFB, New Jersey made this event a huge success. "Our operations staff and senior leadership worked well with everyone from Central Command and particularly the White House Staff," Trimmins said. "The band exceeded their expectations throughout the event."

Both the G-8 Summit and the President's address received live televised coverage by CNN and Fox-News.



Chief Master Sergeant Roger Ferrell conducts the Ceremonial Band of the United States Air Force Reserve before President Bush addressed Central Command at MacDill AFB. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Heather Kanaszka)

Independence Day Celebration with Stillwater

By: Airman First Class Timothy Shaw
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve



Technical Sergeant Aaron Miles (left) was one of five vocalist featured during the Concert Band's portion of the 2004 Independence Day Celebration. (Photo by Gary Cutrell)

The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve celebrated Independence Day with another spectacular concert featuring the popular Middle Georgia southern rock group, Stillwater. Stillwater has produced three albums including hits such as, "Mindbender," "I Reserve the Right," "Women," and the remake of the Neil Diamond/Barbra Streisand hit "You Don't Bring Me Flowers."

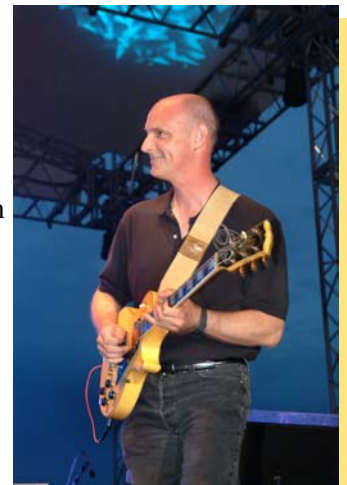
This was the first time Stillwater has performed with the Band of the Air Force Reserve. "Performing with the band was an awesome honor," said Sebie Lacey, lead vocalist of Stillwater. "With everything going on in the world, the timing was great."

Senior Airman Shane Stanke, Band of the Air Force Reserve staff arranger, arranged several Stillwater songs for the Concert Band. "Hearing our music with

the full concert band gave me chill bumps," Mr. Lacey said. "It makes you feel really good."

The Houston County Honor Band entertained the gathering audience prior to the concert. The Honor Band is made up of select musicians from the county's four high schools. They rehearsed for three weeks under the instruction of local directors and members of the Band of the Air Force Reserve. "The Honor Band provides a good opportunity for the students to get different perspectives from other band directors and professional musicians," said Senior Airman Mike Pekarek, a coordinator for the Honor Band and co-principal French Horn in the AFRC Band.

The evening ended with the largest fireworks show in the history of the event, attracting more than 16,000 people. "Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and the Band of the Air Force Reserve, we have a tremendous celebration that gets better every year," said Allen Tatman of the Warner Robins Civitan Club.



Technical Sergeant Rob Walker is a member of Stillwater and serves as the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of Reserve Generation, a sub-unit of the AFRC Band. (Photo by Greg Cutrell)

The mission of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve is to provide musical support for Air Force and Air Force Reserve recruiting programs; official military functions and ceremonies; troop morale, esprit de corps, and personnel retention at Air Force installations; and Air Force and Department of Defense (DoD) community relations programs.

For more information about the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve, log on to: **www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band**, or call (478) 327-0555

For information on the Air Force Reserve, log on to: **www.afreserve.com**, or call (800) 257-1212

Introducing The Blue Notes

By Airman First Class Andrew Minns
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve has created a new musical sensation – The BlueNotes! At the beginning of 2004, members of the former Dixie Express charged ahead to freshen up their group with new songs, a new look, and a new style. The BlueNotes offers a decidedly different approach to an old classic. “This ain’t your daddy’s Dixie,” boasts Technical Sergeant Bill Granger, the group’s Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge. According to Sergeant Granger, the reason for the change was to “make the Air Force and Air Force Reserve fun and attractive to younger audiences.”

The BlueNotes is a nine piece group consisting of lead vocals, trumpet, two trombones, clarinet, keyboard, drums, guitar, and tuba. The group keeps with traditional Jazz, Blues and Dixie standards while incorporating bright sounds and tempos with a Latin feel.

As well as the high energy music, the band has incorporated choreography into their sets. The mastermind behind the sophisticated dance moves is Walt Disney World veteran Staff Sergeant Marcel Marchetti. “Too often we as musicians focus our efforts solely on the musical aspects and forget the visual impacts of our performances,” said Sergeant Marchetti. In addition to choreography, comedy and audience participation are used in each show to help capture and hold the attention of the audience, making this group a positive addition to the Band of the Air Force Reserve.



The Blue Notes recently performed at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center. (Photo by Technical Sergeant John Alexander)



Key Personnel

Commander,
Air Force Reserve Command
Lieutenant General John Bradley

Vice Commander,
Air Force Reserve Command
Major General John Batbie, Jr

Assistant Vice Commander,
Air Force Reserve Command
Brigadier General Robert Lytle

Commander and Conductor
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve
Captain Chad Steffey

Staff Officer,
Lieutenant Allison Farabaugh

Deputy Director,
Mr. David Ballengee

Band Manager,
Senior Master Sergeant
John Cornacchione

First Sergeant,
Master Sergeant Scott Gunn

Director of Operations,
Technical Sergeant Ken Trimmins

Non-Commissioned Officer In
Charge of Public Affairs
Technical Sergeant John Alexander

Assistant Editor and Graphic
Design, Senior Airman Dandrick
Glenn



Band of the United States Air Force Reserve
223 N Houston Road Suite 131-A
Warner Robins, GA 31093-8888

Phone: 478-327-0555
Fax: 478-327-0568

